

Appendix A6 Fruitvale Allotment #76

1.0 Introduction

Fruitvale Allotment #76 consists of approximately 1,000 acres of public land and 400 acres of private land, per the RMP.

Through the Evaluation and Determination, it was determined that

- Livestock management is in conformance with the Watershed (#1), Riparian Areas (#2), Stream Channels and Flood Plains (#3), Native Plant Communities (#4), Water Quality (#7), and Threatened and Endangered Species (#8) standards;
- Compliance with all applicable guidelines for livestock grazing management being achieved.

2.0 Description of the Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action /Continue Current Management

There are two permittees authorized to graze on this allotment on a season-long basis. Current livestock management would continue, with one of the grazing permits expiring February 28, 2009 and the other expiring February 28, 2013. Mandatory terms and conditions of the grazing permit for the Fruitvale Allotment #76 are:

Permittee	Livestock	Season of Use	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Douglas M. Scism	32 Cattle	04/10 to 06/30	100%	86	0	85
Jack and Donna Yantis	53 Cattle	04/10 to 05/20	100%	71	0	73

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to the grazing permit for Douglas Scism:

1. Livestock grazing for Fruitvale Glen Allotment will comply with Field Managers proposed decision dated August 30, 2006. Fruitvale Allotment will be addressed in Environmental Assessment ID-110-2005-EA-011.
2. Authorized AUMs will not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above indicate the maximum that will be allowed under this permit. The permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on the public land.
3. Scheduled use changes require prior approval on an annual basis. From information provided in the annual application, a grazing bill will be prepared indicating authorized use for that year.
4. The Annual Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements will be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.

6. Turn-out date will be subject to range readiness. Range readiness occurs once the soils have firmed after the spring thaw, and the physiological requirement of the plants have been met.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), the permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone or with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on Federal Land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remain or object.
8. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats, or aspen stands.

Following are allotment specific terms and conditions attached to the grazing permit for Jack and Donna Yantis:

1. Livestock grazing for Starkey Allotment will comply with Field Manager's proposed decision dated August 30, 2006. Fruitvale Allotment will be addressed at the conclusion of Environmental Assessment ID-2005-EA-011.
2. Authorized AUMs will not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above indicate the maximum that will be allowed under this permit. The permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on the public land.
3. Scheduled use changes require prior approval on an annual basis. From information provided in the annual application, a grazing bill will be prepared indicating authorized use for that year.
4. The Annual Actual Use Report is due within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements will be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Turn-out date will be subject to range readiness. Range readiness occurs once the soils have firmed after the spring thaw, and the physiological requirement of the plants have been met.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), the permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone or with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony on Federal Land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), the permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the discovered remain or object.
8. Salt and/or supplement shall not be placed within one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats, or aspen stands.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Action

Based on field mapping of existing fences and information provided by the permittee, the acreage for Fruitvale Allotment has been recalculated. There are six fewer acres of public land in the allotment than are shown in the RMP. The allotment now contains approximately 994 acres of public land and no private land owned or controlled by current permittees. These revised acreages reflect the most accurate and up-to-date information, and would be used for the new term permit.

To incorporate updated allotment information and current grazing management guidance for Fruitvale Allotment it is proposed:

1. Modify the allotment boundary to correspond to existing fencelines;
2. Percent public land term of the grazing permit will remain at 100%;
3. Renew the grazing permit showing maximum authorizations for livestock numbers, season-of-use, and AUMs (each of these columns would be stand-alone sections of the permit therefore standard method for calculating AUMs would not apply). Annual flexibility of livestock numbers and/or season-of-use would be allowed based on seasonal circumstances (example - range readiness; variations in permittee's management; but not limited to these situations). Management flexibility would be allowed provided livestock use remains within the sideboards of maximum livestock numbers and season-of-use, and without exceeding authorized AUMs.
4. Use Annual Indicators as a tool to insure continued conformance with Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

Based on the proposed action, livestock grazing would be authorized for a combined maximum of 158 AUMs from early-April to the end of June. Terms and conditions necessary to regulate grazing activities on public land would be added to the grazing permit. Annual Indicators would be used to describe utilization criteria. Terms of the renewed grazing permits would be for ten years, from March 01, 2009 to February 28, 2019 as follows:

Permittee	Livestock (maximum)	Season of Use (maximum)	Percent Public Land	Grazing Preference		
				Active	Suspended	Total
Douglas M. Scism	32 Cattle	04/10 to 06/30	100%	85	0	85
Jack and Donna Yantis	53 Cattle	04/10 to 06/30	100%	73	0	73

Following are specific Terms and Conditions to be attached to the grazing permits for Fruitvale Allotment. Allotment specific terms and conditions for other allotments on the grazing authorization would be added to the following:

1. Livestock grazing for Fruitvale Allotment will comply with Field Manager's Decision that became final on (intentionally left blank at this time, date to be inserted when the decision becomes final).
2. Authorized AUMs would not be exceeded on public lands. Livestock numbers and season of use, as shown above, indicate maximums that would be allowed under this permit. Permittee has discretion to manage within these numbers, provided overuse does not occur on public land.
3. Changes to the scheduled use require prior approval, on an annual basis.
4. The Annual Grazing Use Report (BLM Form 4130-5) must be properly completed, signed, dated and submitted within 15 days of completing your authorized annual grazing use.
5. Annual maintenance of range improvements would be completed prior to livestock entry of the allotment.
6. Livestock turn-out is subject to Boise District range readiness criteria.
7. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(b), permittee must notify the BLM Field Manager, by telephone followed with written confirmation, immediately upon discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined in 43 CFR 10.2) on federal land. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c), permittee must immediately stop any ongoing activities connected with the discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect discovered remains or object.

8. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed on public lands within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

Flexibility

Scheduled turn out dates by pasture may be adjusted based on Range Readiness and Annual Indicators. Grazing schedule adjustments require prior approval from the Authorized Officer.

Based on the results of monitoring associated with Annual Grazing Use Indicators, periodic modifications to authorized grazing management may be imposed. Monitoring data would be used to ensure adherence with Annual Indicators, listed below. Modifications may include, but are not limited to: the duration of grazing use, and/or reducing livestock numbers. These modifications would be coordinated annually with the permittee and incorporated into the annual authorization.

Annual Indicators

Adherence to the Annual Indicators listed below, and the prescribed grazing management program are expected to make progress towards meeting, and maintaining achievement of the Standards for Rangeland Health and land use plan objectives. Periodic collection, evaluation, and interpretation of monitoring data would provide an indication of the potential success of the grazing management prescription.

1. Average utilization by livestock on key bunchgrass species would not exceed 40 percent during the period of critical growth (May 1 through June 30), and 50 percent outside the critical growth period.
2. Utilization on shrubs would not exceed 30 percent of current year's production as determined by Browse Removal Method, or other approved methods.

Long Term Indicator Criteria for Riparian Areas

1. Increase riparian plant cover, particularly late seral sedges, rushes, and willows on stream banks as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;
2. Increase bank stability to 85 percent or more, as measured on riparian trend (Greenline) transects;
3. Decrease in greenline to greenline channel width (width/depth ratio).

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Affected environment is discussed in the main body of this EA, with additional information provided below.

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Affected Environment – Vegetation

Overall, the plant community is diverse, vigorous and functioning adequately to cycle nutrients, provide for the appropriate flow of energy and hydrologic cycling. Invasive plant species are the only resource issue.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences – Vegetation

3.1.2.1 Alternative A

Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.1.2.2 Alternative B

Slight changes in livestock grazing management are proposed under this alternative; however, environmental consequences are expected to be the same as those described for Alternative A.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment – Soils

Overall, the watershed is functioning adequately even though areas of plant pedestalling, connected and continuous water flow patterns and patchy areas of bare ground were observed.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences – Soils

3.2.2.1 Alternative A

Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by promoting proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform to provide proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling and energy flow.

3.2.2.2 Alternative B

Slight changes in livestock grazing management are proposed under this alternative, however the environmental consequences are expected to be the same as those described for Alternative A.

3.3 Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.1 Affected Environment – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

There are no populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive wildlife species known from Fruitvale Allotment. The area was probably once home to Columbian sharp-tailed grouse; however, no sightings have been reported in decades.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences – Wildlife – Including Special Status Animal Species

3.3.2.1 Alternative A

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet

the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

3.3.2.2 Alternative B

The Idaho rangeland health standard for special status animal species is being met on this allotment. Livestock grazing management under this alternative is expected to continue to meet the standard by maintaining or promoting healthy productive and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate and landform.

3.4 Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

3.4.1 Affected Environment – Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

A 0.2-mile-long segment of Weiser River occurs in this allotment. The river displayed varied age classes, as well as structural and species diversity desired in potential natural plant communities. Weiser River was in proper functioning condition for Standards 2 (riparian vegetation) and Standard 3 (stream channel and floodplain). Weiser River supports a healthy and viable population of redband trout. Water quality standards for cold water biota and salmonid spawning were met.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences – Riparian Areas, Water Quality, and Fisheries

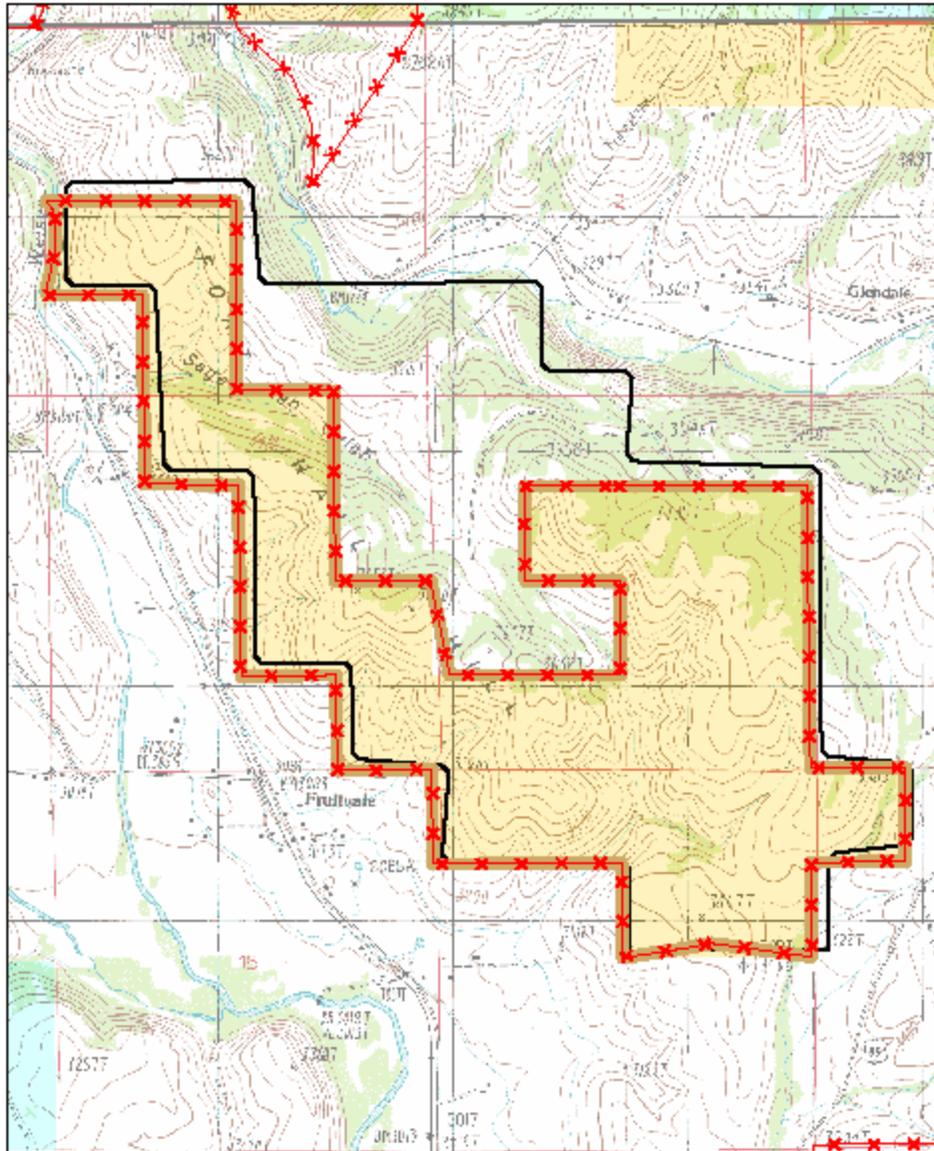
3.4.2.1 Alternative A

Weiser River would continue in proper functioning condition for Standard 2 (riparian vegetation) and Standard 3 (stream channel and floodplain). All applicable water quality standards would continue to be met over the short through long terms. The river would continue to support a healthy and viable population of redband trout

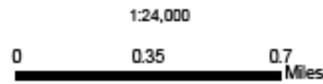
3.4.2.2 Alternative B

The environmental consequence from implementing the proposed action would be identical to alternative A.

Fruitvale Allotment #76 T 17N R 1W



Map Legend	
	Fence
	Proposed Allotment Boundary
	1988 Management Plan
	BLM
	USFS
	State
	Private



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